

Paris April 9. 1783

Dear Sir

I hope this will find you in Congress, Supporting your Country and her Friends, where you ought to have been these many years past. - For <sup>want</sup> what of a few more hands of your Stamp at the Great Wheel. We poor Creatures are trembling here under a fearful Looking for of Indignement and fiery Indignation from Philadelphia.

It is utterly inconceivable how Congress can have been deceived into such Instructions as they gave <sup>us</sup>, which without all Controversy would have ruined our Country if they had been obeyed. Those Instructions put <sup>some of</sup> our essential Interests into the Power of ~~our~~ the worst Enemy of those Interests.

Great Britain is in a State that is undefinable. Unable for many weeks <sup>to</sup> form any Administration at all, the thing is now reported to have made a Combination so whimsical that it cannot be expected to last, if it can operate at all. it must be divided in Sentiment upon every material Question. The Distress for Grain, the Poverty of the Treasury, the Weakness of publick Credit, the Weight of Taxes, and the general Discontent and Animosity threaten and the Danger if not the Certainty of a publick Bankruptcy, at least in Part, threaten that devoted Country with Calamities



of which no Man can foresee the End. —

You are threatened with an Inundation of Emigrants from all Parts of Europe, but there will not be such an Appearance of them as is talked of. — it is not so easy for Men to change Countries. — if you were to listen to the Conversations in private Circles or in Coffeehouses or to the Paragraphs in the Gazette, you would think that all Europe was about to empty itself into America: but after all the Number of Emigrants will be small.

I am in expectation every hour of receiving your Account of my Resignation, and indeed I stand in need of it. — The Scams of Gloom, Danger and Perplexity I have gone through, by Sea and Land, and the Shocks of various Climates, have affected my health to a great degree and what is worse my Spirit. Firm as some People have been and pleasant enough to suppose my Temper is, I assure you it has been shaken to its foundations, and more by the fluctuating Councils of Philadelphia than by any Thing else. — When a Man sees entrusted to him the most essential Interests of his Country, sees that they depend <sup>essentially</sup> wholly upon him and that he must defend them against the Attacks of Enemies, the Treachery of Allies, the Treachery of a Colleague, and sees that he is not to be supported even by his Employers, you may well imagine a Man does not sleep on a bed of Roses. it is enough to poison the Life of Man in its most Secret Sources.

The Fever which I had at Amsterdam, which held me for five Days hickouping and Senility over the Grave, exhausted me in such



a Manner that I never have been able to recollect it entirely. I have  
rode and walked and exercised incessantly now for a year and three  
quarters, and have lived in all respect with great caution, but all  
does not do. - I have weakened of Mind and Body, to which  
I have been all my life before a Stranger. But I am not yet  
however so weak as to stay in Europe, with a wound upon my  
honour. and if I had the Health of Hercules, I would go home  
Leave or no Leave, the Moment another Person is appointed  
to Great Britain - No fooling in such a March. I will not  
be horse Jockeyed. - at least if I am Le Vergermes & Frank,  
him shall not be the Tories.

It is not that I am ambitious of the Honour of a Baronet or  
to St James's or that I fully expect an happy life there. I could be  
happier, I believe at the Hague. But the ~~more~~ my Enemies, because  
they are Enemies or despisers of the Interest of my Country shall never  
have such a Triumph over me. I should think myself forever unworthy  
of the Confidence of Europe or of any other Body possessed of Sense or  
Spirit if I did. - In Truth I sigh for Europe - My Family has become  
<sup>an</sup> ~~an~~ indispensable Necessity of Life to me. I am no longer a Boy, nor  
a Young Man. - and there is no Employment however honourable, No  
Course of Life however brilliant, has such a Luster in my Imagination  
as absolutely a private Life. My Farm and my family glitter  
before my Eyes every day and night.

You may well imagine, that I shall not be beloved in London.  
I have been as you knew, too old and atrocious an offender.



184  
not to have Millions of Enemies there. — You know too, that I have  
acted too daring and decided a Part in France and Holland, as well  
as in America not to have numerous Enemies and powerful  
ones too in all those Countries. — The Peace does not open to me  
in publick Life Prospects of Glory & Triumph and Power and  
Wealth that can flatter or excite Ambition or Avarice in me.

I know very well for many Years before I engaged in publick that  
if I ever should engage, whatever Dangers I might brave whatever  
Losses I might suffer, and whatever Sufferings I might have, Rewards  
and Fortunes were never made for me, <sup>as mine,</sup> that, <sup>the</sup> what I certainly  
expect would be a tolerable comfortable or even a tolerable old Age, —  
For this I would gladly now compound. — at home I might enjoy  
it — abroad I certainly cannot. — decide my fate therefore as  
soon as possible, if it is not yet decided, which I wish I have  
and let me embrace you at Philadelphia or at Milton.

With great affection and Esteem your Friend

John Adams

General Warren.